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OUR ZEAL AND THEIR ZEAL:

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THE ZEAL OF THE ANCIENTS AND THE MODERNS COMPARED.

It is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing.—*Gal.* iv: 18.

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God.—*Heb.* xii: 15.

Steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.—*1 Cor.* xv: 52.

There was a leading, abounding, ever acting, untiring zeal at the commencement of New Testament times that seems at least intellectually admirable to the dullest and most careless professor at the distance of eighteen centuries. Christ then had friends—friends in earnest. He also had enemies, and they were in earnest. It did not require a microscope to draw the line between the two ranks, those who were with him and those who stood against him. Opposers were bitter, hateful, and persecuting, always abounding in their work of opposition. Friends were ardent, whole-hearted, full-souled, and uncompromisingly attached. They took hold of the gospel as Christ's best representative on earth, as if he was in it himself, spoke by it, loved by it, saved by it, judged of all men by it; and hence in thus taking the gospel into their embrace, they owned and embraced Christ to live in them, by them, over them, and through them. In throwing open their hands, their hearts, their affections to receive the Lord Jesus in his appointed salvation, they, in effect, said,—'Jesus, the great Deliverer, has ended our captivity and taken off our weary burdens; he has pardoned our sins and removed all the load of guilt that bowed down our souls; he has given us soundness for lameness, and strength for weakness, and has brought us out of darkness into light, and given us eyes to behold it; he has lifted us from the earth and set us at his right hand in heavenly places by his favour; he has turned our hopes, our pleasures, our pursuits from things perishing to things eternal;—we have been dead with him, buried with him, raised with him, and now our covenant is to walk with him in a life wholly new, go where he leads, do what he bids, speak as he directs, behave as he requires;—we love him, for he has saved us—we love him, and we will obey him;—henceforth if he tells us to go and plead with sinners like himself, we shall go, and if he asks us to minister to our brethren who are joint heirs with him, we are